First U.S. Aircraft

PHOTO BY PH1(NAC) CHRIS DESMOND, USN

The heads of the U.S. and Singapore navies, Adm. Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations, and Rear Adm. Lui Tuck Yew, Chief of Navy, commemorate the first carrier to moor pierside at the new deep-draft vessel pier at Changi Naval Base, Singapore.

The arrival of the USS Kitty Hawk and its escorts at Changi Naval Base is a significant milestone in the relationship between our two navies.

Rear Adm. Lui Tuck Yew
Chief of Navy
Republic of Singapore

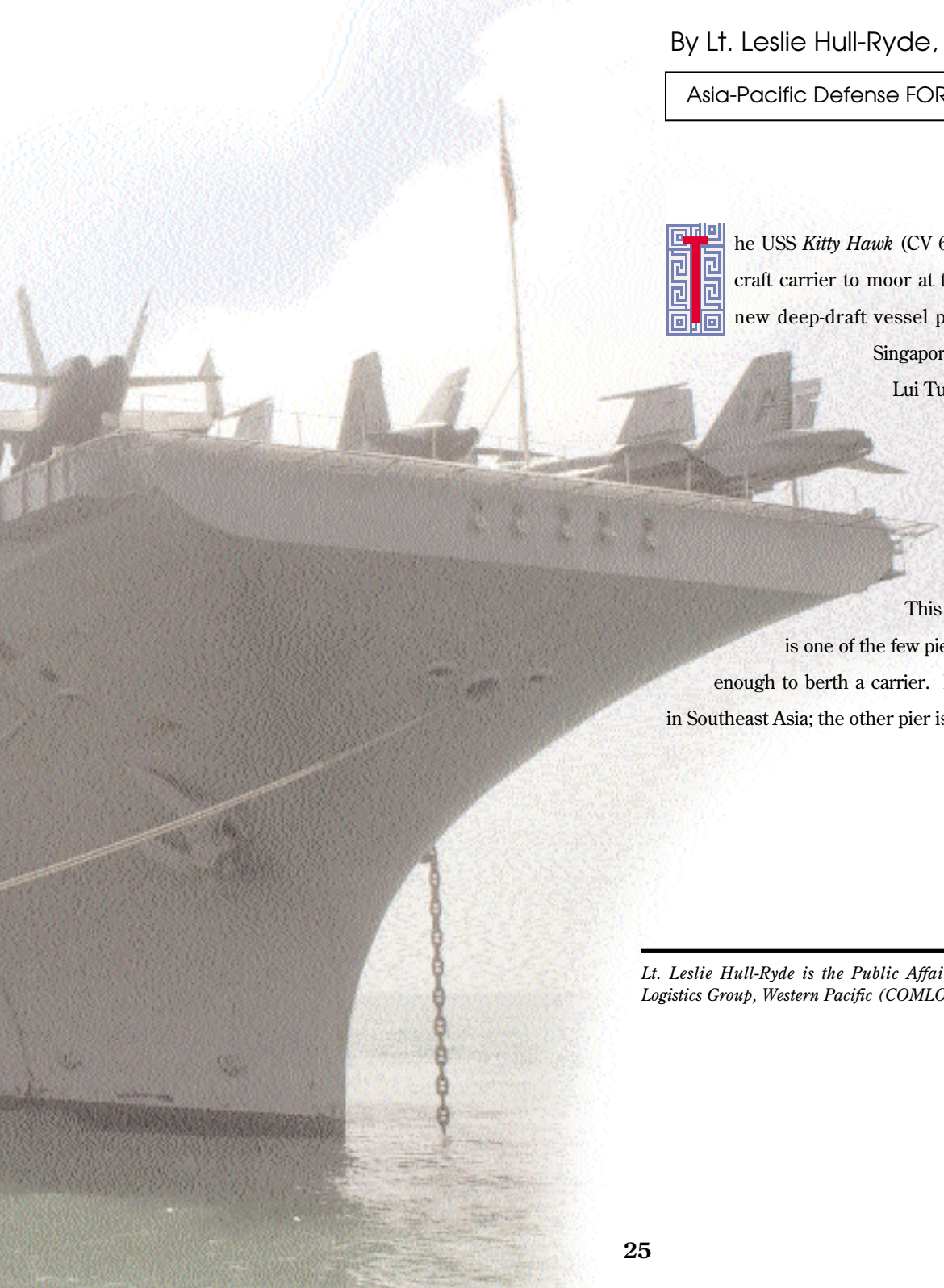
PHOTO BY PH2(NAC) DAVID C. MERCIL, USN

The U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) moors pierside for the first time at Changi Naval Base, Singapore.

Carrier Moors Pierside in Singapore

By Lt. Leslie Hull-Ryde, USN

Asia-Pacific Defense FORUM Fall 2001



The USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) became the first U.S. aircraft carrier to moor at the Republic of Singapore's new deep-draft vessel pier at Changi Naval Base. Singapore's Chief of Navy, Rear Adm. Lui Tuck Yew, and the U.S. Navy's Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Vern Clark, commemorated this first-time event at Changi on 23 March 2001.

This new Singapore Navy facility is one of the few piers in the Pacific that is large enough to berth a carrier. It is only one of two located in Southeast Asia; the other pier is in Port Klang, Malaysia.

Lt. Leslie Hull-Ryde is the Public Affairs Officer for the Commander, Logistics Group, Western Pacific (COMLOGWESTPAC), in Singapore

New Singapore-U.S. Naval Technological Cooperation Agreement

By GM1 Tim Gustafson, USN

Singapore and the United States recently increased their level of cooperation in the field of naval technology. On 22 March 2001, Rear Adm. Richard Lim, Deputy Secretary of Technology for the Republic of Singapore Ministry of Defense, and Rear Adm. Jay M. Cohen, Chief of Naval Research for the U.S. Office of Naval Research (ONR), signed a bilateral agreement that will enhance naval technological cooperation between the two nations.

This agreement builds upon a growing military-to-military relationship between the two countries. Rear Adm. Lim noted that, "Singapore has strong defense relations with the U.S. Navy." He continued, "The [U.S.] Navy has been our oldest and closest partner in defense technology cooperation in the U.S. In the past three years we have built up close links with the Office of Naval Research and U.S. Navy laboratories."

Speaking for the U.S. side, Rear Adm. Cohen said, "I look forward to increased cooperation and the exchange of cutting edge technologies." He continued, "I was enormously impressed with the people of Singapore, especially the military scientific community."

Initially, bilateral efforts will concentrate on three primary areas: mine countermeasures, deterrence of hostile submarine activity, and naval logistics development and management.

Both sides hope to expand the cooperative effort to include weather prediction, oceanography and bathymetry. Also targeted for research collaboration are: diving medicine, signature reduction technologies, and the testing of unmanned aerial vehicles. Additionally, scientists plan to study high performance computing for underwater explosions, and energetic and advanced materials.

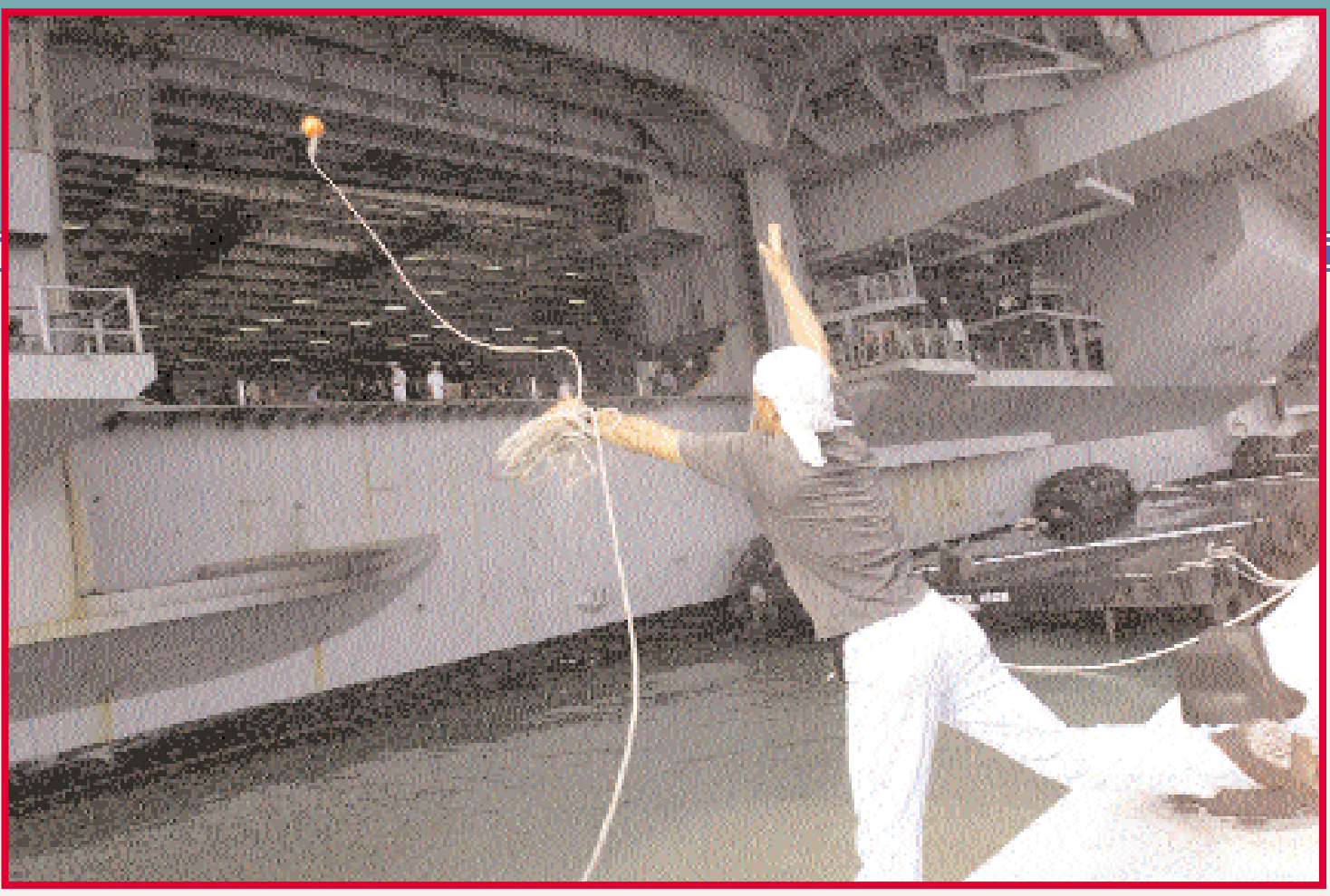
Both countries agreed to provide senior-level guidance and direction for technological collaboration between the two nations. They will encourage cooperation at every level, including in the field, where interaction between researchers is believed to be "especially productive." Dialogue will also take place in joint workshops and seminars. Officials from both Singapore and the U.S. navies will review the document a minimum of once every five years.

"This is a win/win for everyone, since Singapore provides truly unique technological capabilities," noted ONR Field Office Director Darren Bergan. "The two organizations together can generate research results better, faster and cheaper than either organization could on its own." ❑

Singapore is strategically located at the mouth of the Malacca Strait. On a strategic level, adding this deep-draft capability expands Singapore's ability to host the largest U.S. warships, thus contributing to regional stability. On a practical level, the ability of carriers and large deck amphibious ships to now moor pierside, rather than anchoring well offshore, facilitates maintaining and provisioning them.

The U.S. Navy has had a presence in Singapore since the mid-to-late 1960s. Currently, it has two commands headquartered in Singapore to serve U.S. Navy ships transiting the area. The first, Commander, Logistics Group, Western Pacific, plans the re-supply of U.S. Navy ships with food, fuel and spare parts and

A crew member of the USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) looks over Singapore's new port facilities at Changi Naval Base which now save the carrier from having to ferry supplies and people while anchored offshore.



The availability of Singapore's new deep-draft pier to large deck U.S. warships marks a "significant milestone," according to Singapore's Chief of Navy, Rear Adm. Lui Tuck Yew, in the increasingly close cooperative relationship between the two countries' navies.

ensures they get required maintenance. The second, U.S. Naval Regional Contracting Center, procures supplies for ships and aircraft in the region.

Rear Adm. Mark J. Edwards, the commander of the logistics command, observed, "This access will help us accomplish our mission faster, safer and more efficiently for a carrier in port in Singapore." "Right now," he continued, "it can be logistically challenging when our ships are anchored out. We have to ferry supplies and people to them."

The visiting USS *Kitty Hawk* Battle Group included the USS *Chancellorsville* (CG 62) and USS *Vincennes* (CG 49). The battle group is based in Yokosuka, Japan, as the key power projection force of the U.S. Pacific Fleet's forward-deployed naval forces in the region.

It is not only the U.S. Navy that is pleased by the improved servicing now available to its large ships. Singapore officials also noted the significance of this new step forward in military-to-military relations. Rear Adm. Lui stated, "The arrival of the USS *Kitty Hawk* and its escorts at Changi Naval Base is a significant milestone in the relationship between our two navies."

This enhanced naval relationship between the two countries was further confirmed by the signing of a new naval technological cooperation agreement (see sidebar) on the day before the carrier arrived. ❑